THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) The UPSC was requested *vide* Department of Personnel and Training letter dated 25th July, 2005 to reconsider its decision and hold the LDCE for the year 2005. The UPSC has reiterated its earlier stand of not holding the LDCE 2005. Matter is still under discussion with UPSC.

Anti-corruption drive by CVC

985. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Vigilance Commission has sought statutory powers from the Union Government to expedite the anti-corruption drive at high places and suggested creation of a "black brigade" to seize black money till the pendency of judicial process;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering such request of CVC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As per the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission, it has not sought any statutory powers for creation of Black Brigade.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compensatory holidays

986. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in European countries people get compensatory holiday if a national holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday but in India national holidays are not compensated;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to give compensatory holiday to Government employees if a national holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (d) The information relating to holidays in European countries is not centrally maintained. So far as Central Government offices in India are concerned, based on the recommendations of the Third Central Pay Commission it was decided that no substitute holiday should be allowed if any festival holiday happens to fall on a day of weekly off or in the event of more than one festival falling on the same day.

(c) and (d) In view of the decision taken, based on the recommendations of the Third Central Pay Commission, no such proposal is under consideration at present.

Millennium Development Goals, 2000

†987. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the study reports prepared by the Action Aid with regard to Millennium Development Goals, 2000 in which it has been stated that the poor are still poor and the condition of providing the basic necessities has become worse;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that existing economic and industrial policy are the main cause for not achieving the target set in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of a study report brought out by Action Aid International regarding the Millennium Development Goals, 2000 entitled. 'Whose Freedom? Millennium Development Goals as if people matter'. The report does not explicitly suggest that the poor are still poor and the condition of providing the basic necessities has become worse in India. The proportion of people living below poverty line declined from 36 per cent in 1993-94 to 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000. Similarly, the access of people to basic necessities has improved over time. The percentage of households getting enough food

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.